

God's Providence in God's People

Contra Costa Gospel Church
Adult Sunday School

DAVID (Part 2)

In 1 Samuel 18 we find that David is now the hero who vanquished the terrible Goliath. We know that the book has as a primary purpose to instill in its readers a sense of loyalty to the Davidic kingdom and the Davidic dynasty (the line of David). And thus, with this in mind, the story of Goliath is absolutely necessary as a launching point to the fame and legend of David.

How will the people respond to David? How will Saul react to Israel having a hero that is not named Saul? This is what we see going forward.

- 1) Read 1 Samuel 18:1-9. This section is tacitly about Saul's relationship with David, even though it explicitly describes David's relationship with Jonathan. What do each of these sections tell us about the relationship between the two kings, and specifically about how Saul feels about David?
 - a. 1 Samuel 18:1-4
 - b. 1 Samuel 18:5
 - c. 1 Samuel 18:6-9
- 2) The relationship between the two men continues to deteriorate as the chapter develops. Saul devises a plan to eliminate the threat that David represents by putting him in dangerous positions of battle and hoping the enemy "takes him out" (see 1 Samuel 18:17 and 25). Why do you think the author tells us about this plan, and in particular, the fact that Saul ends up giving his daughter to another in 18:19 (Hint: see Judges 15:1-3)?
- 3) In the remainder of the book of 1 Samuel, we read about Saul's constant and obsessive pursuit of David, to kill him and everyone who has helped David along the way. This includes priests (1 Samuel 22) who innocently provided food for David and his companions. At the same time, Saul is also fighting a war with the Philistines as well. This culminates in Saul's defeat at the hand of Philistines. Read 1 Samuel 31. What a tragic end to the first king of Israel! How does his defeat resemble the defeat of any of the judges we have read about already?

- 4) Read 2 Samuel 1:1-16. In this section we read another version of how Saul died.
- Which version do you think is the one that tells the true story of how Saul died? Why do you think so?
 - What does this passage regarding the Amalekite's version of Saul's death tell us about David?
- 5) What follows in 2 Samuel is the consolidation of the kingdom under the authority and rule of David. The kingdom was divided for some time, some loyal to the line of Saul still, while others followed David (see 2 Samuel 3:1). Finally, the entire nation of Israel came under the rule of David when the entire land crowned him king. Read 2 Samuel 5. How does the author tell us in this chapter that David was doing right in the eyes of the Lord? What are the clues in the text that tell us that things are moving in a positive direction for the nation, and for David?
- 6) Read 2 Samuel 6. We read in this chapter the account of David bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem (vv. 12-13), his exuberance at this event (vv. 14-15), and Michal's disgust at seeing her husband dance in such a way (vv. 16-20). When this story is read today, much of the attention is paid on David's dancing around and his response to Michal, "I will become even more undignified than this..." There is even a song that has this line in its lyrics.
- The song's lyrics are, "I will dance, I will sing, to be mad for my king, nothing, Lord, is hindering the passion in my soul. And I'll become even more undignified than this. Some would say it's foolishness but I'll become even more undignified than this." What is the point of the song? What is the song trying to encourage?
 - Now, looking at the passage and knowing that this entire Book of Samuel has an overarching message which is to develop in its readers a lasting loyalty to David *over and above Saul*, what is the point of this story regarding David's dance and Michal's disgust?